

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of) Mail Stop Amendment
Maurice L. James et al.) Group Art Unit: 3672
Application No.: 10/660,338) Examiner: Philip C. Tucker
Filed: September 10, 2003) Confirmation No.: 5989
For: BENTONITE NODULES)
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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313 -1450

Sir:

In complete response to the Office Action dated December 29, 2004, Applicants submit herewith a three month extension of time extending the period of response from March 29, 2005 until June 29, 2005 and the following Response.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this Response.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this Response.